

Name of university, Name of faculty: Trnava University
Faculty of Education

INFORMATION SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

Code: XSJKNB001		Name: Introduction to Sign Language Study	
Cover: Department of Slovak Language and Literature			
Type of educational activity: Lecture, Seminar		Number of credits: 4	Recommended semester: WT
Scope of educational activity (in hours): Weekly: 2/1 For term of study: ZS 46,23			Study grade: Bachelor
Method of educational activity: Combined			
Recommended semester	Study programme		
1.year WT	Slovak for Deaf Sign Language Users (XSjvKN-D1) Slovak for Deaf Sign Language Users (XSjvKN-E1)		
Underlie subjects:			
Conditions for passing the course:			
Method of evaluation: Completion by taking an examination			
Continuous evaluation: a) passing a written examination in basic sign language theory (maximum 40 points, minimum 21 points), b) a condition for completing the subject is also the realization of the non-contact part of the subject - self-study. This part is mainly realized by studying the recommended literature.			
Final evaluation: The final assessment is based on the completion of the interim assessment and the final written test at the end of the teaching period. The final written test is designed to test mastery of theoretical knowledge of sign language (maximum 60 points, minimum 30 points). A minimum of 91 points is required for an A grade, a minimum of 81 points for a B grade, a minimum of 71 points for a C grade, a minimum of 61 points for a D grade and a minimum of 51 points for an E grade.			
Finished:			
Learning outcomes: The student is able to: VV 1: describe sign language in an understandable way, VV 2: Explain the genesis of sign languages and critically reevaluate views on communication of hearing impaired throughout history, myths and beliefs about sign language, VV 4: describe the main features of natural language, VV 5: through contrastive linguistics, state the similarities and differences between sign language and spoken language, VV 6: explain the relationship between natural language and society, VV 7: to work with the dictionary of sign language and to indicate ways of enriching the signing vocabulary, VV 8: based on the knowledge to propose appropriate methods of sign language research.			
Schedule of subject: 1. Approaches to deafness - medical, cultural-anthropological and special-pedagogical (sign language), sign language and its characteristics. 2. Definition of terms - natural language, intercultural and intracultural communication, sign language, sign language, sign language system, sign communication, manual communication. 3. The genesis of sign languages - the origin and emergence of sign languages, the case in Nicaragua. 4. Attitudes to communication of the deaf - the development of attitudes to sign language in historical periods. 5. Linguistics of sign languages - two periods of development of sign language linguistics, opinions and myths about sign language. 6. The main features of natural language - systematism, characteristic, double subdivision, productivity, separateness, historicity, reflexivity. 7. Similarities and differences between sign and spoken languages (contrastive linguistics). 8. Sociolinguistics of sign language - sociolinguistics, diglossia, pidgin, code-switching and code-mixing, bilingualism and signing variation. 9. Lexical level of sign language - lexis of sign language, ways of enriching the signing vocabulary. 10. Methods of sign language research - observational method, elicitation method and intuitive reflection.			
Recommended reading: 1. ARVENISOVÁ, M.: Semantic-syntactic and sociopragmatic peculiarities of Slovak sign language interpretation. Banská Bystrica : Belianum, 2017. 172 p. 2. BAKER, A. - van den BOGAERDE, B. - PFAU, R. - SCHERMER, T. (eds.): The Linguistics of Sign Language: An introduction. Amsterdam Philadelphia : John Benjamins Publishing Co., 2016. 378 p. 3. DÍKYUVA, H. - MAKAROĞLU, B. - ARIK, E.: Turkish Sign Language Grammar. Ankara : The Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Policies, 2017. 318 p. Available at: < http://turkishsignlanguage.enginarik.com/turkish-sign-language-grammar>. 4. HUDÁKOVÁ, A.: The Milan Congress: details, context. In. 20, č. 3. Available at: < https://dl1.cuni.cz/pluginfile.php/465372/mod_resource/content/1/milansky%20kongres_infozpravodaj.pdf>. 5. KOVALÍK SLANČOVÁ, T.: Non-verbal communication in the trainer's communication register. In. 9, č. 35. Available at: < https://www.ff.unipo.sk/jak/cislo35.html>. 6. MACUROVÁ, A.: Non-manual means in sign languages: brief introductory remarks. In. 22, č. 1. Available at: < http://dspace.specpeda.cz/bitstream/handle/0/148/13-19.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>. 7. MACUROVÁ, A. - ZBOŘILOVÁ, R. et al.: Languages in Deaf Communication: Czech Sign Language and Czech. Prague : Karolinum, 2018. 315 p. 8. POWER, J. M. - GRIMM, G. W. - LIST, H.-M.: Evolutionary dynamics in the dispersal of sign languages. 2020. Available at: < https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsos.191100>. 9. QUER, J. - CECCHETTO, C. - DONATI, C. - GERACI, C. - KELEPIR, M. - PFAU, R. - STEINBACH, M.: SignGram Blueprint: A Guide to Sign Language Grammar Writing. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter GmbH, 2017. 896 p.			

10. TARCSIOVÁ, D.: Sign language and deaf education. Bratislava : Iris, 2019.
11. VOJTECHOVSKÝ, R.: AD: Sign language or sign language? In. 9, č. 9. Available at: < www.nrozp-mosty.sk/temy-cisla-9-2016/item/1903-ad-posunkova-rec-alebo-posunkovy-jazyk.html>.
12. VOJTECHOVSKÝ, R.: Why do hearing aid users listen differently than deaf people? In. Eds. L. Kročanová, M. Zubová. Bratislava : Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology, 2016.

Language requirements: Slovak

Notes:

Course evaluation:

Assessed students in total: 101

A	B	C	D	E	FX
29%	14%	19%	16%	8%	15%

Lecturers:

PaedDr. Bc. Roman Vojtechovský, lecturer, examiner, instructor

Date of last change: 14.09.2026

Approved by: prof. PhDr. Juraj Hladký, PhD.